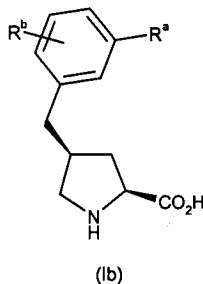


IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ib):



wherein R^a is selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkenyl, C_1 - C_6 alkynyl, hydroxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl, perfluoro C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, C_1 - C_6 alkylamino, di- C_1 - C_6 alkylamino, amino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylamino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, di- C_1 - C_6 alkylamino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and ~~C_4 - C_6 acyl, C_4 - C_6 acyloxy, C_4 - C_6 acyloxy C_4 - C_6 alkyl, C_4 - C_6 acylamino, C_1 - C_6 alkylthio, C_4 - C_6 alkylthiocarbonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylthio, C_4 - C_6 alkoxy, C_4 - C_6 alkylsulfonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylsulfonylamino, aminesulfonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, di- C_4 - C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;~~

R^b is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkenyl, C_1 - C_6 alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, hydroxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl, perfluoro C_1 - C_6 alkyl, perfluoro C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, C_1 - C_6 alkylamino, di- C_1 - C_6 alkylamino, amino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylamino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, di- C_1 - C_6 alkylamino C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and ~~C_4 - C_6 acyl, C_4 - C_6 acyloxy, C_4 - C_6 acyloxy C_4 - C_6 alkyl, C_4 - C_6 acylamino, C_1 - C_6 alkylthio, C_4 - C_6 alkylthiocarbonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylthio, C_4 - C_6 alkoxy, C_4 - C_6 alkylsulfonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylsulfonylamino, aminesulfonyl, C_4 - C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, di- C_4 - C_6 alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15 which is selected from the group consisting of:

~~(2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;~~

(2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and

(2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

22. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~combination~~ according to claim 21, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor selected from sildenafil, vardenafil, tadalafil, 1-{6-ethoxy-5-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-7-oxo-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-3-pyridylsulfonyl}-4-ethylpiperazine, 5-(5-acetyl-2-butoxy-3-pyridinyl)-3-ethyl-2-(1-ethyl-3-azetidiny)-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one and 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-ylsulphonyl)pyridin-3-yl]-3-ethyl-2-[2-methoxyethyl]-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (New) The salt, (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid mono hydrochloride salt.